| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Electronics & Computer Software | 242.05 | 263.63 | 8.9 | 219.93 | 186.52 | —15.2 |
| Project Goods | 89.83 | 18.46 | —79.4 | 17.83 | 10.99 | —38.3 |
| Readymade Garments | 2236.61 | 2199.23 | —1.6 | 1695.28 | 1894.78 | 11.8 |
| Petroleum Products | 522.66 | 414.68 | —20.6 | 320.34 | 397.38 | 24.0 |
| Unclassified Exports | 356.47 | 230.20 | —35.4 | 261.09 | 192.10 | —25.4 |
| Total of above : | 12823.60 | 12408.23 | —3.3 | 9919.62 | 10370.01 | 4.5 |
| Total exports | 18142.84 | 17865.00 | —1.5 | 14340.10 | 14659.97 | 2.2 |
| % Share | 70.7 | 69.4 | | 69.2 | 70.7 | |

**Import of News Print by S.T.C.**

1494. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of glazed newsprint was imported from Canada, Rumania and Hungary in 1991-92;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no systematic evaluation was done of the goods thus imported by the State Trading Corporation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no proper laboratory test was conducted on the quality of the imported goods; and a huge quantity was later found to be substandard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that more than a million US dollars have been thus misused; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) While no quantity of glazed newsprint from Rumania and Hungary in 1991-92 was imported by STC, it imported a Qnty. of 2342-554 MT of glazed newsprint from Canada.

(b) As per the procedure evolved by Newsprint Purchase Committee (NPC), sample reels of Glazed Newsprint manufactured by M|s. Miramichi Pulp and Paper, Canada whose goods were supplied by the Canadian suppliers were got tested from two Indian actual users, M|s. Living Media India Ltd., New Delhi (publishers of India Today) and M|s. Times of India, New Delhi, who were nominated by the Registrar of Newspapers for India. STC appointed M|s. SGS, a reputed international inspection agency for inspection of the goods before shipment. As per the inspection reports of M|s. SGS, the goods were found to be as per contractual specifications. No laboratory test is arranged by STC in such cases.

(c) On arrival of the goods, the same were got tested by Customs from laboratories of Deputy Chief Chemist, Bombay test reports of which were found satisfactory. Later samples were got tested by the Customs authorities at the laboratories of Central Revenue Control Laboratory, New Delhi, Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur and Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay which were found unsatisfactory.

Third test conducted by Deputy Chief Chemist Bombay was found satisfactory, while the tests conducted by Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur

and Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay were found unsatisfactory. The test conducted by the Chief Chemists, Bombay was also found unsatisfactory. Fourth tests got conducted by Customs authorities at the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, Indian Institute of Packaging and the Central Revenue Control Laboratory were found satisfactory.

(d) and (e) In the absence of physical delivery of the consignment, STC did not make any payment to the supplier. However, the issue of making payment to the supplier was discussed in the meeting of the STC Board held in January 93. Subsequently, the matter came up for further discussion in the meeting of the STC Board held on 17-3-93. Having deliberated the issue at length after considering the entire circumstances of the case and the implications thereof, the Board decided that this was a commercial transaction between STC and the foreign company which ought to be settled within the terms of the contract. However, in order to clarify the position, the Board considered it appropriate for STC to re-open a dialogue with the Canadian Company.

**Export of Fruits**

1495. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity of Apples, Oranges, Bananas and Grapes exported during the last two years, countrywise and fruit-wise;

(b) the estimated foreign exchange earned therefrom in this process during the period, country-wise;

(c) whether any special Scheme is under Government's consideration to boost fruit export during the current financial year and whether a provision of any special fund, has been made for this purpose;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken are likely to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The information is contained in Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India by Countries March, 1991 and March, 1992 published by Directorate of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) to (e) A provision of Rs. 623 lakhs has been proposed for Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the budget estimates for 1993-94 for being utilised for developmental activities pertaining to export promotion of products covered under the schedule to the APEDA Act, which includes fruits also.

**Assistance to West Bengal by MPEDA**

1496. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the assistance given to marine products industry during the last three years in the State of West Bengal by the Marine Products Export development Authority;

(b) the details of State-wise export earnings achieved by various States during the said period on account of marine product exports;

(c) whether it is a fact that MPEDA has been neglecting the growth rate and potentialities of the State of West Bengal for the marine products growth for several other reasons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC